LEAD
22-23



Annual Report

Annual Report
2022-2023

A Year in Review



THOMAS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

LEAD



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CORE VALUES

How We Do What We Do

At Thomas Road, our mission is to change our world by developing Christ-followers who love God and love people. We build upon this mission by practicing six core values that are outlined in God's Word:

- Commitment to Scripture
- Culture of Prayer
- Lifestyle of Worship
- Connection to Community
- Heart for Serving
- Passion for Sharing

These values are foundational to the teachings and ministry carried out at Thomas Road, and we embrace them weekly in our gatherings and groups. Over the past ministry year, we have collected stories that highlight the various ways these six core beliefs have been fulfilled within Adult Ministries. As you read these stories, be encouraged and inspired to continue faithfully serving the Lord and dream God-size dreams.

A NOTE FROM LUIS

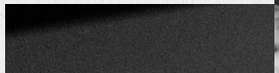
What a fantastic year we have had! I appreciate your commitment to shepherding your groups during the 2022-2023 year. Without leaders like you, we would not have this tremendous ministry of groups that impacts so many people in our church. In this Annual Report, you will see your hard work come to life by reading testimonies and stories of all God has allowed us to do this year. Stories such as how God used our Senior Life ministry to impact our community through nursing home ministries and the Good News Choir, as they brought Christmas cheer this past holiday season. You will hear of our young adults' impact with their Tuesday night gatherings as they prayed and worshipped weekly to build community and help them grow in their faith.

Our Widow Life ministry has been a blessing to our community as many have found comfort and strength in seeing others walking the same road they are on. We have seen similar impact with a small group of widowers who gather once a month to encourage each other. Our women's ministry has grown steadily as many have joined Bible studies and found community with other ladies. It's been a joy to see our younger generations gathering with them to learn and grow together. For the first time, our Hispanic ladies have joined our Tuesday morning studies, emphasizing that we are unified as one body in Christ. Mom Life has had a fantastic year as they have found encouragement in each other, looked beyond themselves and helped other organizations in the community. And as modeled in the book of Acts, our men have been challenged to live out their faith. They have dreamt God-size dreams and are using their hobbies to reach men with Golf and Pickle Ball leagues. They are putting into practice what they have been taught.

Groups in our church continue to flourish, and you can see the impact they are making, not just on Sunday morning, but throughout the week in our community. This year, we have seen our Married Life ministry strengthen through the leadership of Roger & Jenny Lutrell. They have been able to host a marriage retreat at TRO, and









a Marriage Conference, and as a result, have seen the fruit of these efforts in so many marriages. Our groups continue to grow and strengthen as people realize that life is not meant to be lived alone - we need community. There is so much to share of all that God has done, but we hope this Annual Report inspires and encourages you to continue to lead well in the months and years to come. The little things we do as leaders help us become who God has called us to be. Remember that you have been called to serve others, so let's answer the call God has given us. 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever does, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Pastor Luis Nodal

Adult Ministries Pastor







SWEET TIME GALA

It was a joy to celebrate our 2nd annual Sweet Time Gala this spring with our Single Women, Single Mom Life, and Widow Life groups. At this year's gala, we had 130 women within the church come to be filled, encouraged, and celebrated. During the gala, we were able to worship, hear from guest speaker; Kristin Boyce, and learn about each ministry that was represented in the room. We asked Tracie England, our Single Women's leader, what her highlight of the event was and she summarized it beautifully:

"The highlight for me was seeing the smiles on the ladies' faces when they walked into Bruner Hall. They were excited to have an event where they could dress up and feel cherished. I loved when Kristen reminded us that we are precious daughters of God. God loves us, He nurtures us, He pursues us and wants to have a relationship with us. Because of His grace and love, Christ is enough!

It was a beautiful day that celebrated each woman in every season of life. Ephesians 4 reminds us of the unity that is found in Christ, and we are so thankful that through this event, we were able to see God uniting each of our single women's ministries together!"

Core Value: Community

DISCÍPULOS QUE HACEN DISCÍPULOS

DISCÍPULOS QUE HACEN DISCÍPULOS

This Spring, our Spanish campus started a group called “Discípulos que Hacen Discípulos,” or Disciples Making Disciples, which meets on Wednesday nights during TRMidweek. We had two groups - one for men and one for women. Our hope was to create a culture of discipleship that would reach the Hispanic community in our city with the Gospel, transforming lives and families.

Through this group, the goal was to prepare people who will lead mission-minded small groups in Spanish. The launch of this group was very successful with 24 individuals regularly attending each meeting! We look forward to how God uses Discípulos que Hacen Discípulos in the Fall!



Core Value: Community

















MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Married Life had its first ever marriage conference at Cedar Oaks Farm this past March. Jason & Tori Benham, authors of Beauty in Battle, were our guest speakers for the weekend. Learning how to fight shoulder-to-shoulder instead of face-to-face was the topic, and the speakers did an excellent job of sharing a Bible-based way to fight together. Satan wants married couples to fight face-to-face to cause division, but God's plan is for us to realize our spouse is not our enemy. Fighting shoulder-to-shoulder against Satan and his schemes makes couples stronger and a good example to their families. We had 62 couples join us for this incredible weekend, and we continue to see the impact that was made in many marriages because of it!

"We could truly feel the outpouring of love that was put into this event....from the planning, preparations, food choices, ambiance, flowers, gift bags, activities, workbooks, and so much more - our expectations for this conference were exceeded! We are grateful for the time spent investing in our marriages with TRBC Married Life."

"This marriage conference was powerfully transformative! It exceeded our hopeful expectancy by not only providing tangible insights into growing our marriage in Christ, but it also encouraged and challenged us individually, reminding us of the importance of embracing a kingdom perspective in the process. These conferences are some of the most valuable investments you can make in growing your marriage."



Core Values: Scripture, Community

MOM LIFE

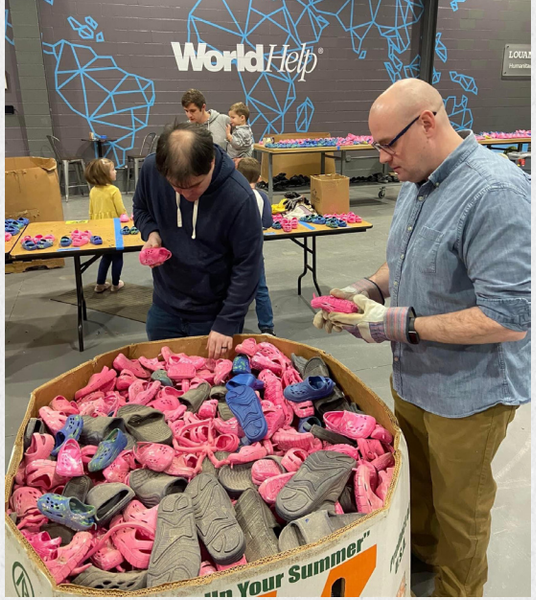
World Help Family Service Night

Mom Life is a wonderful way for our moms to be in community and learn from one another. Our Mom Life community not only serves each other, but they also faithfully serve here in Lynchburg! This year, we saw God show up in an amazing way at the World Help Family Service Night. One of our moms summarized the event perfectly by expressing, “If we learned anything at this event, it’s that our kids are capable of more than we might expect and that inviting them to serve the Lord alongside others is a rich blessing. And how about those husbands coming after work and jumping right in? We look forward to more nights like this in the future!”

We are so thankful for every opportunity that we have to encourage our families to be the hands and feet of Christ TOGETHER! That night, there were 730 pairs of shoes sorted and put together, which have gone out all over the world to people in dire need of help for today and hope for tomorrow. That’s 730 lives impacted in just 1.5 hours! Glory to God!

Core Values: Community, Serving













TRYA PRAYER NIGHTS

At Thomas Road, we have seen the impact of prayer throughout our ministry events and groups. Our prayer nights have been designed to help get members of our church together to join in corporate prayer. In our services, we ask people to pray, but we also focus on individual prayer and having an intimate moment speaking to God privately. We want those who attend our prayer nights to meet new people and connect with them to hear what God is doing in their lives. We pray together humbly and boldly as a church body. When we lift up those who are beside us, we see how the Holy Spirit unites us, comforts us, and gives us the strength to walk daily in our faith.



Core Values: Worship, Prayer, Community

THE GATHERING

for Women's Life Leaders

1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us, “Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.”

This past August, we invited our women’s life leaders from Seven different ministries to gather for our first annual leader celebration: The Gathering. During the day, we had over 100 leaders unite and celebrate all that the Lord had done in Women’s Life. It was a beautiful day to encourage them in their ministry and pray for our upcoming year in Women’s Life.

Our leaders have worked hard to disciple and lead our women in every ministry. We are incredibly thankful that the Lord has given us such amazing women who serve so faithfully in Women’s Life. We could not do it without them!

Core Values: Community, Prayer











MARRIED LIFE PICNIC

Our Married Life Summer Picnic in 2023 was a hit! Once again, Cedar Oaks Farm provided a wonderful venue for us. We had a bouncy house for the kids, games for everyone, and delicious barbecue. Good fellowship and fun was had by all!

These extra opportunities outside of the church building provide a way for couples to connect and grow our community. Life wasn't meant to be done alone; God wants us to build friendships and deepen relationships, so when trials come we can support one another.



Core Value: Community

TRYA

Bahamas Missions Trip

This spring, Thomas Road Young Adults had the privilege of getting to serve on a mission trip to the Bahamas. We partnered with a local ministry called Camp Bahamas, which runs summer camps to reach the local youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our team was made up of various ages from 12-55 years old. We served by helping with building projects, sanding, jackhammering, painting, and some of the team even did a little roofing. We also got to serve in the local schools and community by helping distribute supplies and different kinds of goodies for them. This gave our team the opportunity to have Gospel conversations with the locals and were even invited to pray with them in their homes.

One of the incredible things we saw God do on this trip was show us what true unity within the Body of Christ looks like. Kristin Cartwright, one of the individuals who served on the trip, pointed out how joyful and meaningful the team's conversations were with each other on the entire trip. We got to experience fellowship the way the Bible tells us to, and this fellowship has continued since we have returned. If you have never been on a short-term mission trip, I would encourage you this year to take that step and see what trips Thomas Road has to offer.

Core Values: Serving, Sharing















LEAD CELEBRATION

LEAD Celebration 2023 was a wonderful time to celebrate our faithful life group leaders and all the ways the Lord has used them this year! During this autumn-themed event, leaders enjoyed a delicious charcuterie board and salad bar, spent time painting pumpkins, going on gator rides around Cedar Oak's property, saw some animals at the petting zoo and puppy party stations, listened to an encouraging message by Adult Ministries Pastor Luis, and received a gift of appreciation. We love our leaders and feel so grateful for all of the time and efforts they dedicate to leading their flock well.



Core Values: Community, Serving

LEAD CELEBRATION LEAD CELEBRATION

MEN'S LIFE

Pickle Ball League Outreach

During the summer of 2022, Men's Life started a Pickleball life group! Led by Caleb Rice and Micah Kincaid, the intent of the group was to get men involved in the ministry who wouldn't normally attend church as an opening to present the Gospel. The group met at Ivy Hill Golf Club each week, played Pickleball, and had a Bible lesson. Although around 50 people attended the group throughout the season, there was one individual who stood out – his name is Bryton.

After Caleb shared his testimony during one of the meetings, Bryton wanted to learn more about Jesus and was saved that night. Bryton and Caleb have been meeting every week since then for discipleship, and the group has now grown to a 6-member Bible study. This summer, Bryton and another group member will be taking on the leadership of the Pickleball life group with the hopes of seeing more lives changed through Jesus.

Core Values: Community, Sharing















SOMA

the Body of Christ

During the summer months of 2020, we felt the Lord calling us to plant a new life group called Soma, and our unified answer was simple: Yes Lord! However, as we were standing behind our table during our first “Group Sunday,” we had no idea that the very first member to join us would be a Japanese lady named Natsue and her family. Nor did we ever imagine that we would bump into a Vietnamese lady named Mai and invite her family to walk with us in Christ. Nor did we picture the abundance of joy we would share together with the friends and families of Home on the Other Shore, our Chinese Soma.

When we took that first step of obedience by saying, “Yes Lord!”, we never knew that God had already brought the world to Thomas Road and to His Soma.

Core Values: Community, Sharing, Scripture, Worship, Prayer, Serving

GROUP SUNDAYS

We had some incredible Group Sundays this past ministry year! This event is designed to connect group seekers with available groups here at Thomas Road. For about 10-15 minutes before and after each service, those who are interested in joining a group are able to stop by and meet the leader of each group to make a personal connection, ask questions about the group, and sign up to join!

In the fall, we held the event two weeks in a row and connected over 240 individuals to our life groups. We saw 190 people embrace community through Group Sundays in the spring! We are prayerfully looking forward to seeing how God uses Group Sundays in the 2023-2024 ministry year.





Core Value: Community















YOUNG MARRIED GROUP

During TRMidweek this spring, we started a group for young married couples - it has been a great success! This group has presented a great opportunity for young married couples to grow, learn, and experience life together under the wisdom and leadership of a more seasoned couple: Larry and Susan Moxley. They meet every Wednesday to enjoy food, fellowship, Scripture reading, discussion, and teaching to develop their relationships with the Lord and each other.

The group has over twenty members and has grown so quickly that they had to move to a bigger room to accommodate their size! The Young Married Couples group is looking forward to the fall semester and meeting the future couples that will join their group.

Core Values: Community, Scripture

PEARLS OF LIFE

In 2022, Senior Life started going into Pearls of Life Memory Care for a weekly hour-long gospel sing. Bo Hall, Mike Bryant, and Curtis Young have not only blessed the residents with their singing, but they have been blessed by the participation of the residents and staff. According to Krystal Kersey: Activities Director, “our residents look forward to Wednesday and the time of singing.”

The average attendance for Wednesday is 23 seniors. Everyone comes out for the singing and participates! “It is one of the sweetest moments I have ever witnessed,” states Kent Wise, Senior Life Pastor.



Core Values: Serving, Worship

















LEAD EVENTS

As a way to train all of our life group leaders and invest in their leadership skills, we hold three LEAD events a year! This year, we enjoyed listening to some incredible speakers share about topics that are relevant to them and their groups: spiritual warfare, prodigal children, sexuality, marital issues, and going back to the basics of our life group DNA. We love spending time together as leaders to learn from both the speakers and one another.



Core Values: Scripture, Prayer, Community

WIDOW LIFE TEA PARTY

Our Women's Life team had the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful widows of our church by hosting a Widow Life Tea Party at Cedar Oaks Farm. The ladies dressed up and put on their most tea-worthy hats to enjoy delicious tea, fresh-baked scones, and fellowship with one another.

The Bible places a great emphasis on the responsibility for Christians to care for and support women who have lost their husbands. James 1:27 says that "pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world." It is an honor to serve and love the widows of Thomas Road!









Core Values: Community, Serving









THE CHOSEN

Women's and Men's Life groups had the pleasure of studying The Chosen Series this fall in their Tuesday morning and evening studies. They took a deeper look at Isaiah 43 and learned about the ways that Jesus fulfilled this Scripture. By walking through both Old and New Testament passages, the groups discovered what it means to actually be chosen by Jesus.





Core Values: Worship, Prayer, Scripture, Community

MARRIAGE RETREAT

at Thomas Road Outpost

This fall, Married Life took twenty couples up to Thomas Road Outpost to spend a weekend away to invest in their relationships and intentionally move towards oneness in Christ. Jim and Suzi Kallam from Tandem Spirituality were the incredible guest speakers for the weekend.

This couple has spent 42 years of full-time ministry at one church in Charlotte, North Carolina. After “retirement,” they answered God’s calling to minister to married couples. In addition to the great biblical teaching, the TRO staff made the atmosphere very special for the couples. From the rustic mountain fine dining to the zip line challenge - the couples had an experience they will never forget. The Married Life team is looking forward to their next retreat in Fall 2023!



Core Values: Community, Scripture, Worship















MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

This past summer, Men's Life launched their first-ever Golf League! It was a great way to involve unchurched individuals in ministry and have them witness a clear difference in the way that Christian men play the game. Men were invited to join the league for a devotion, fellowship over 9 holes of golf at Ivy Hill Golf Club, and prizes.

The team who leads this group has the goal of ministering to men who may not have yet heard the message of salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord. They are looking forward to this next season which launches on April 12th.



Core Values: Community, Sharing

GOOD NEWS CHOIR

The Good News Choir is the musical outlet for seniors here at Thomas Road. This year, the group performed in local Adult Living Communities for Christmas gatherings, salutes to veterans, and hymn sings.

The choir is led by Wes Bettcher and faithfully meets every Thursday for rehearsal. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Good News Choir, don't hesitate to express your interest for the upcoming fall semester.



Core Values: Worship, Community, Serving









EARLY MORNING PRAYER

Another impactful ministry that has been growing throughout this past year is Early Morning Prayer or EMP. This group meets faithfully Tuesdays - Fridays at 5:00am to spend time in prayer before they start their day. We are grateful for their commitment to fostering a culture of prayer in our church.



Core Values: Prayer, Worship, Community

Memorable STATISTICS

Total Number of Life Groups:

248 GROUPS

Number of New Groups

19

Total Number of People in Groups

4,469

Married 7	Men 43	Seniors 6	Widows 18
Women 79	TRYA 33	Sunday 26	TR Midweek 19
	Off Campus 13	Singles 4	

Salvations

290

Baptisms

183



God-Size Dreams

